

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for coordinating the activities of multiple computers using a common reference point such as a Global Positioning System pulse-per-second signal. A reload register transmits a reload value to a mission timer. The mission timer generates an interrupt signal based upon the reload value. A timer capture register captures the countdown value of the mission timer when a pulse-per-second signal is asserted. Software generates new reload values based upon the countdown value captured by the timer capture register. Additional timer capture registers may be used to form a consensus value of the countdown value when the pulse-per-second signal is asserted. A local pulse-per-second signal generator may be used when a Global Positioning System pulse-per-second signal is not available.